This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	<i>IL-28B (IFNL3)</i>	<p>Genetic association studies suggest that a polymorphism upstream of the <i>IL-28B</i> gene could help predict a patient's ability to clear HCV infection. In a previous study, the rs12979860 polymorphism, located about 3 kilobases upstream of <i>IL-28B</i>, was associated with HCV patient response to therapy. In the new study, genotype analysis at the same loci showed that the CC allele of the gene is associated with a high rate of spontaneous viral clearance. Next steps include determining whether the allele variant leads to altered expression of <i>IL-28B</i> that could potentially contribute to protection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1412 Published online Sept. 24, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Thomas, D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Sept. 17, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08463</p> <p>Contact: Mary Carrington, National Cancer Institute–Frederick, Frederick, Md. e-mail: carringm@mail.nih.gov</p>